Re. discontinuance of L.P.G. and Telephone quota for Rajya Sabha Members

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली): उपसभापति महोदया, पिछली बार भी सदस्यों के गैस कूपन और टेलीफोन कोटा के बारे में सवाल यहां उठा था और मंत्री महोदय ने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि राज्य सभा के सदस्यों के गैस कूपन और टेलीफोन देने का जो कोटा है, उसको खत्म नहीं किया जाएगा तथा वह चालू रहेगा। महोदया, यह सिद्धान्त का सवाल है कि हमारे सभापति या उपसभापति की अनुमति के बिना मैम्बर्स को मिलने वाली कोई सुविधा खत्म नहीं की जा सकती। इस तिमाही को शुरू हुए डेढ़ महीना हो गया है, इसके बावजूद कहा जाता है कि वह सदस्यों को कल मिल जाएगा, परसों मिल जाएगा लेकिन अभी तक किसी मैम्बर का गैस या टेलीफोन का कोटा बहाल नहीं किया गया है। अफसर लोग स्वेच्छा से गैस कूपन दे रहे हैं, टेलीफोन एडवाइजरी कमेटी के मैम्बर्स अपनी मर्जी से टेलीफोन दे रहे हैं, स्वेच्छा से दे रहे हैं परन्तु सदस्यों का यह कोटा यहां खत्म कर दिया गया है और यह कहा जा रहा है कि इस बारे में सुप्रीम कोर्ट का जजमेंट है। महोदया, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जजमेंट दिया है पैट्रोल पम्पों के लिए और गैस एजेंसियों के लिए, उनका इस बारे में कोई निर्णय नहीं है और ज्यादा से उन्होंने इतना ही कहा है कि आप इसका कोई रूल बना दीजिए। रूल बनाने के नाम पर, उपसभापति महोदया, इस कोटे को समाप्त करना बिल्कुल गलत है और एक तरह से गैर कानूनी है। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि आप इनको निर्देश दें कि मंत्री जी ने जब यहां पर आश्वासन दिया था तो इसके बाद भी इसको कैसे रोक दिया गया है?

उपसभापति: आपकी बात मैं चेयरमैन साहब को पहुंचा दूंगी।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): मैडम, यह बात हाउस में डिस्कस हो चुकी है और इस बात पर चेयरमैन साहब ने अभी तक कोई अदरवाइज़ डायरेक्शन नहीं दिया है, राज्य सभा ने अभी तक कोई फैसला नहीं लिया है कि राज्य सभा के सदस्यों का गैस या टेलीफोन का कोटा खत्म हो। हमारे राज्य सभा के सभापति के फैसले के बिना यह खत्म नहीं हो सकता। मंत्री महोदय ने आश्वासन दिया है और इसलिए मैं समझता हूं कि आप उनको डायरेक्शन्स दीजिए कि राज्य सभा के सदस्यों का कोटा चालू रहे और इस पर कोई आपत्ति नहीं होनी चाहिए।

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): सदर साहिबा, मेरा कहना यह है कि सुओ-मोटो किसी किस्म का ऐक्शन मिनिस्ट्री कैसे ले सकती है। इस किस्म की बातचीत हो चुकी है कि बिजनैस ऐडवाईज़री कमेटी में चेयरमैन साहब की मौजूदगी में और यह तय हुआ कि अगर मिनिस्ट्री इस तरह की जोर जबरदस्ती करेगी तो चेयरमैन साहब की ओर से उनको डायरेक्शन जाएगी। वह डायरेक्शन चली जानी चाहिए।

†[شری سکندر بخت: صدر صاحبہ۔ میرا کہنا یہ ہے کہ "سوو۔موٹو" کسی قسم کا ایکشن منسٹری کیسے لے سکتی ہے اس قسم کی بات چیت ہو چکی ہے بزنس ایڈوائزری کمیٹی میں چیئرمین صاحب کی موجودگی میں اور یہ طے ہوا تھا کہ اگر منسٹری اس طرح کی زور زبردستی کرے گی تو چیئرمین صاحب کی طرف سے انڈائریکشن جانی چاہیئے۔]

The Ministry can't behave independently. They have no business. They have to be directred in this matter.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: (Tamil Nadu): Madam, it has been widely reported in the newspapers and we all know about it. The Ministry is saying that the Lok Sabha has cancelled the privilege enjoyed by Members of Parliament. Madam, we are not concerned with it. It is because of this they are not giving us these coupons. Because these coupons and privileges regarding telephones were not extended to our Members, we raised the issue with the hon. Chairman in the House and the Chairman also made it clear that so far no such decision was taken and this would continue as far as the Rajya Sabha Members were concerned. As far as I know, the Government also agreed that this was the position. Now I do not understand how this is happening. When

†[[Transliteration in Arabic Script

Members go to get their coupons from the office, the same thing is being told to them that becuase it has been cancelled for the Lok Sabha Members, Members in the Rajya Sabha will also not get it. I just want to know if we are in any way a subsidiary House or whether we are totally bound by some decision taken elsewhere and whether the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha has no power or authority to enforce a decision regarding whatever has to be done with regard to matters relating to Members of Rajya Sabha.

Madam, the second point is we ourselves should decide whether there is corruption or misuse. Actually, after whatever happened in the Supreme Court, the Government said that it was from the Minister's quota that MPs got it. Therefore, now there is no quota. These are minor technical things which the Government can sort out. The fact remains that bureucrats in the Ministry still enjoy the powers of giving these out-of-turn connections, both of gas and of telephones. I do not think elected representatives of the people are in any way less responsible than bureaucrats in giving out these gas coupons and telephones to people who really need them. Let us not lower the institution of Parliament or ourselves by this. Please clarify whether we are bound by decisions taken elsewhere regarding the rights and privileges of Members of this House. Thank you.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN (Maharashtra): This matter was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and we were given to understand that the coupons has come and they were going to be distributed. But again I do not know what unsettled the whole thing. In fact, we are not able to understand it. The entire matter was discussed in the presence of the Chairman. The concerned Minister was also there. The hon. Minister, Mr. Reddy was also there. They were saying that it has already come and we were going to get it. Why is it that you are not responding to the demand that is being made. What happens in the Lok Sabha is not relevant here. Our Chairman and Members of this House are a separate entity and they can take their own decisions. There is no reason why there should be no response from the Government.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam, we recognise that in regard to Members of this House, the decision has to be taken by the presiding officer of this House. There cannot be two opinions on that question. Madam, I entirely endorse the viewpoint articulated by so many senior Members including Chavan Saheb and the Leader of the Opposition. I did not happen to be present in that particular meeting. But I am not disowning responsibility. I will take this problem to the concerned Minister. We will soon come back to you...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: By the end of the session, coupons should be made available to us.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As I have discovered, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, a communication from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has already been sent to the Minister regarding the Rajya Sabha Members feelings. So you please find out..*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR (Maharastra): There is one more thing in this connection. Madam, these telephone cards were being given to Members during every session. But since the last five sessions they are not giving us telephone cards to be used in the lobbies. So Madam, this is also connected. We must get our former five cards and for these two sessions two more cards we must get. This is very useful because during Question Hour we are required to talk on STD to get information for our supplementaries. So this is very useful to us.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam, Deputy Chairman, the issue which Dr. Shrikant has raised is very relevant. It has got nothing to do with discussion. It is a facility that is essential for members who work in Parliament. It is not a privilege at all, it is a facility. So gas connection is a privilege because members have to satisfy their constituents. So that problem will be taken care of very quickly. We will come back to you as quickly as possible.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI (Delhi): What is the meaning of 'quickly'?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Malkani, now don't question. (*Interruptions*).Mr. Malkani, once the Leader of the House says, let us take it. He will inform us. We still have one week.

Re. Non-Passing of representation of women in Parliament and State Legislatures Bill due to lack of consensus

SHRIMATI JAY PRADA NAHATA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views as to how to herald an era of equality for women and men in politics and public life. Though democracy has spread its wings across the globe, women's political power has not, despite the fact that women constitute fifty per cent of the world's population. The Conference of Inter-Parliamentary Union that was held recently in our Capital has strikingly brought out the ignoble myth and misery of the disproportionate representation of the fair sex in the political sphere the world over. As per our Indian Constitution every citizen, whether man or woman, is bestowed with the fundamental right to live freely, to express freely and act freely. Anybody can be selected and get elected by the people who have a right to vote. Why then are women looked down upon? Why then are women not encouraged and elevated? The root cause behind this is that men are biased and they are not scaling them with equal status and strata in the society on a par with them; men think high of themselves, and they want to safeguard their position. There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing. The elders say,

"यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ति तत्र देवताः"

which means "Where women are respected, there Gods delight, and where they are not, there all works and efforts come to naught."

Madam, as per the National Crime Record Bureau, the crime record against fair sex, including rape, dowry death, torture and eve-teasing has shot up from 67,072 in 1989 to nearly 84,000 in 1993. Statistically speaking, the proportion of women to men in our country is 481:519. For all practical purposes it would be valid to take the proportion to be 50:50. The process of our respresentative democracy is incomplete. To complete it, representative bodies should consist of women and men in equal numbers. Madam, there is a fear complex that men will be trailing behind if women enter politics. Thus, men have created traditional barriers against women entering into politics and public life and confined them to the four walls of the family to prevent their becoming the domineering class of the human race. We call our land 'motherland'. We call our language 'mother language'. But we are hesitant to give the reigns to the same great mother when she is ready to share the burden and serve the country along with men in the wider scope of the country as one family.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has outlined several suggestions in order to break the problem of under-representation of women in political life. These include restructuring of opportunities and encouraging female participation among other things.